

**Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior**

**§ 162.252**

law, including collection on any available bond or referral of the debt to the Department of the Treasury for collection. An action to recover any unpaid amounts will not be conditioned on the prior cancellation of the lease or any further notice to the tenant, nor will such an action be precluded by a prior cancellation.

(c) Partial payments may be accepted by the Indian landowners or us, but acceptance will not operate as a waiver with respect to any amounts remaining unpaid or any other existing lease violations. Unless otherwise provided in the lease, overpayments may be credited as an advance against future rent payments, or refunded.

(d) If a personal or business check is dishonored, and a rent payment is therefore not made by the due date, the failure to make the payment in a timely manner will be a violation of the lease, and a notice of violation will be issued under § 162.251 of this subpart. Any payment made to cure such a violation, and any future payments by the same tenant, must be made by one of the alternative payment methods listed in § 162.227(b) of this subpart.

**§ 162.249 Will any special fees be assessed on delinquent rent payments due under an agricultural lease?**

The following special fees will be assessed if rent is not paid in the time and manner required, in addition to any interest or late payment penalties that must be paid to the Indian landowners under an agricultural lease. The following special fees will be assessed to cover administrative costs incurred by the United States in the collection of the debt:

The tenant will pay * * *	For * * *
(a) \$50.00 .....	Administrative fee for dishonored checks.
(b) \$15.00 .....	Administrative fee for BIA processing of each notice or demand letter.
(c) 18% of balance due.	Administrative fee charged by Treasury following referral for collection of delinquent debt.

**§ 162.250 How will BIA determine whether the activities of a tenant under an agricultural lease are in compliance with the terms of the lease?**

(a) Unless an agricultural lease provides otherwise, we may enter the leased premises at any reasonable time, without prior notice, to protect the interests of the Indian landowners and ensure that the tenant is in compliance with the operating requirements of the lease.

(b) If an Indian landowner notifies us that a specific lease violation has occurred, we will initiate an appropriate investigation within five business days of that notification.

**§ 162.251 What will BIA do in the event of a violation under an agricultural lease?**

(a) If we determine that an agricultural lease has been violated, we will send the tenant and its sureties a notice of violation within five business days of that determination. The notice of violation must be provided by certified mail, return receipt requested.

(b) Within ten business days of the receipt of a notice of violation, the tenant must:

- (1) Cure the violation and notify us in writing that the violation has been cured;
- (2) Dispute our determination that a violation has occurred and/or explain why we should not cancel the lease; or
- (3) Request additional time to cure the violation.

**§ 162.252 What will BIA do if a violation of an agricultural lease is not cured within the requisite time period?**

(a) If the tenant does not cure a violation of an agricultural lease within the requisite time period, we will consult with the Indian landowners, as appropriate, and determine whether:

- (1) The lease should be canceled by us under paragraph (c) of this section and §§ 162.253 through 162.254 of this subpart;
- (2) We should invoke any other remedies available to us under the lease, including collecting on any available bond;